

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hiroyuki TERATANI, et al.

Appln. No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Confirmation No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Group Art Unit: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed: March 03, 2002

Examiner: NOT YET ASSIGNED

For: PNEUMATIC TIRE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

5. A pneumatic tire according to Claim 3, wherein the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) has a molecular weight distribution ( $M_w/M_n$ ), which is expressed as a ratio of a weight-average molecular weight to a number-average molecular weight ( $M_n$ ), in a range of 1 to 4.
6. A pneumatic tire according to Claim 3, wherein the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) is at least one polymer selected from a group consisting of a homopolymer of a conjugated diene monomer, a copolymer of conjugated diene monomers and a copolymer of a conjugated diene monomer and an aromatic vinyl monomer.
8. A pneumatic tire according to Claim 3, wherein the rubber component (A) comprises 40% by weight or more of the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) having a

## Preliminary Amendment

Q68784

content of a vinyl linkage of 25% or more in conjugated diene units and 40% or more of the polymer having at least one of a tin atom, a nitrogen atom and silicon atom in its molecule.

10. A pneumatic tire according to Claim 8, wherein the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) is obtained by reaction with a compound having a tin atom in its molecule after polymerization.

12. A pneumatic tire according to Claim 8, wherein the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) is obtained by reaction with a compound having a nitrogen atom in its molecule after a completion of polymerization.

17. A pneumatic tire according to Claim 8, wherein the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) is obtained by reaction with a compound having a silicon atom in its molecule after a completion of polymerization.

21. A pneumatic tire according to Claim 3, wherein the rubber component (A) comprises a conjugated diene based polymer having a branched structure.

29. A pneumatic tire according to Claim 22, the rubber composition (r3) further comprises a rubber component (A), wherein the (B) component is comprised in an amount of 0.5 to 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the rubber component (A).

30. A pneumatic tire according to Claim 3, wherein the rubber compositions (r1), (r2) and (r3) further comprises a reinforcing filler (C) comprising at least one filler selected from a group consisting of reinforcing inorganic fillers and a carbon black.

36. A pneumatic tire according to Claim 3, wherein the rubber compositions (r1), (r2) and (r3) further comprises sodium 1,6-hexamethylenedithiosulfate dihydrate.

Preliminary Amendment

Q68784

37. A pneumatic tire according to Claim 3, wherein the rubber members disposed in the side wall portions are each arranged in the side wall portion at an inner side of the tire and adjacent to the carcass layer.

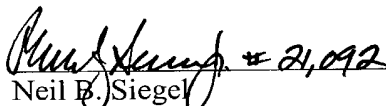
39. A method for exhibiting both of excellent ride comfort during driving under a condition of a normal internal pressure and excellent durability under a run flat state of a pneumatic tire which comprises a carcass layer, a tread portion disposed at an outside of the carcass layer in a radial directions of the tire and a pair of side wall portions disposed at right and left sides of the tread portion, the method comprising disposing a rubber member constituted with the rubber composition described in Claim 1 on the side wall portions.

**REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Preliminary Amendment

Q68784

**APPENDIX****VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

5. A pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of Claims 3 and 4~~, wherein the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) has a molecular weight distribution (Mw/Mn), which is expressed as a ratio of a weight-average molecular weight to a number-average molecular weight (Mn), in a range of 1 to 4.

6. A pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of Claims 3 to 5~~, wherein the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) is at least one polymer selected from a group consisting of a homopolymer of a conjugated diene monomer, a copolymer of conjugated diene monomers and a copolymer of a conjugated diene monomer and an aromatic vinyl monomer.

8. A pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of Claims 3 to 7~~, wherein the rubber component (A) comprises 40% by weight or more of the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) having a content of a vinyl linkage of 25% or more in conjugated diene units and 40% or more of the polymer having at least one of a tin atom, a nitrogen atom and silicon atom in its molecule.

10. A pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of Claims 8 and 9~~, wherein the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) is obtained by reaction with a compound having a tin atom in its molecule after polymerization.

## Preliminary Amendment

Q68784

12. A pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of Claims 8 and 9~~, wherein the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) is obtained by reaction with a compound having a nitrogen atom in its molecule after a completion of polymeriazation.

17. A pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of Claims 8 and 9~~, wherein the conjugated diene based elastic polymer (a) is obtained by reaction with a compound having a silicon atom in its molecule after a completion of polymerization.

21. A pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of Claims 3 to 20~~, wherein the rubber component (A) comprises a conjugated diene based polymer having a branched structure.

29. A pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of Claims 22 to 28~~, the rubber composition (r3) further comprises a rubber component (A), wherein the (B) component is comprised in an amount of 0.5 to 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the rubber component (A).

30. A pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of Claims 3, 5 and 22~~, wherein the rubber compositions (r1), (r2) and (r3) further comprises a reinforcing filler (C) comprising at least one filler selected from a group consisting of reinforcing inorganic fillers and a carbon black.

36. A pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of Claims 3 to 35~~, wherein the rubber compositions (r1), (r2) and (r3) further comprises sodium 1,6-hexamethylenedithiosulfate dihydrate.

37. A pneumatic tire according to ~~any one of Claims 3 to 36~~, wherein the rubber members diposed in the side wall portions are each arranged in the side wall portion at an inner side of the tire and adjacent to the carcass layer.

39. A method for exhibiting both of excellent ride comfort during driving under a condition of a normal internal pressure and excellent durability under a run flat state of a

Preliminary Amendment

Q68784

pneumatic tire which comprises a carcass layer, a tread portion disposed at an outside of the carcass layer in a radial directions of the tire and a pair of side wall portions disposed at right and left sides of the tread portion, the method comprising disposing a rubber member constituted with the rubber composition described in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 37~~ on the side wall portions.